

Crossing Paths



WITH WILDLIFE IN WASHINGTON TOWNS AND CITIES

Fall 1999

From the director: Thanks for all you do!

By Jeff Koenings, WDFW Director

Thank you for everything you do to help wildlife in your backyard and beyond!

That's the first thing I want to tell you as one of our nearly 6,000 Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary managers across the state of Washington.

Now that I've been a Washington resident and managed your Department of Fish and Wildlife for almost ten months, I know what dedication many of you have to making sure wildlife has a future. And I want you to know that's appreciated. Without your support in our mandate to protect and perpetuate wildlife and fish in Washington, we couldn't begin to do our job.

That job has become increasingly complex and challenging in the last decade. In the last year alone we've been working with many federal, state, county, and local governments and groups to recover threatened wildlife and fish and their habitat so people can enjoy them for generations to come.

Such professional fish and wildlife management isn't free. Traditional support, from the sale of fishing and hunting licenses, only covers about a third of our budget. State general fund dollars only pick up another third. Coverage of the balance varies with other sources.

So it's no surprise that we're looking for ways to provide long-term funding stability. This fall Congress likely will consider landmark legislation that could provide some of that stability by earmarking certain federal funds for a variety of conservation uses, including "non-game" or "non-consumptive" wildlife recreation such as backyard wildlife sanctuary programs. Please check out the details on page four.

Thanks again for all you do, and keep up the good work!

Get "wild": put down that rake and help your backyard wildlife more!

At first the dictionary definition of "wild" sounds like something out of your own Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary: "growing, living in a natural state."

But keep reading: "unruly," "mussy," "disorderly," even "slovenly." These are words that try our gardening souls! We certainly don't want to be accused of laziness. **But the most successful wildlife habitat managers know that resisting that neat-and-tidy urge, especially now in the fall, is the key to helping wildlife more.**

So put down that rake and get "wild"! Here's why:

Leaf litter, dry heads and stalks of summer perennials, and other "leftovers" from the growing season may look unkempt to you, but they are homes and/or food for wildlife.

Insects and other invertebrates in that backyard duff are food for soon-to-be-migrating blackbirds, robins, bluebirds and many others. Birds love to feed on the old seed heads of your spent blooms and other plants which can provide seeds well into winter. Let them stand for goldfinches to grosbeaks. (It might even help your winter feed budget!)

Reptiles and amphibians use spent

yard and garden vegetation for cover. Many small mammals make use of decaying matter and brush piles. Some, like mice, are not welcome in great numbers, but they DO provide food for birds of prey and coyotes. Skunks, raccoons, and opossums are better off using natural garden "waste" rather than your garbage can or pet food.

Any wildlife, especially in abundance, can become a nuisance. So the amount of fall clean-up work you do depends on your situation, preference, and tolerance.

Remember, what looks unruly to you could be a fall and winter haven for wildlife. And it's not "slovenly" to have a "mussy" backyard wildlife sanctuary – it's "wild"!



Crossing Paths is a twice-yearly newsletter for Washington residents enrolled in the Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program.

Westside: 16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek, WA 98012 / 425-775-1311

Eastside: N. 8702 Division St., Spokane, WA 99218 / 509-456-4082

www.wa.gov/wdfw

Crossing Paths Newsletter

Writer/Editor: Madonna Luers

Contributing Urban Wildlife Biologists:

Russell Link, Patricia Thompson (Seattle - Mill Creek)

Howard Ferguson (Spokane), Michelle Tirhi (Tacoma)

WDFW Graphics Office / Print Shop



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Who's That?

“Who, Who, Who’s That,” you ask? Well if it sounds anything like that, it could be one of 13 species of **owls** native to Washington.

Some are uncommon or unlikely in your backyard due to habitat preferences, like the Great gray owl of the mountains, Burrowing owl of shrub-steppe areas, or endangered Spotted owl of old-growth forests.

The following are most likely to be seen or heard around your home.

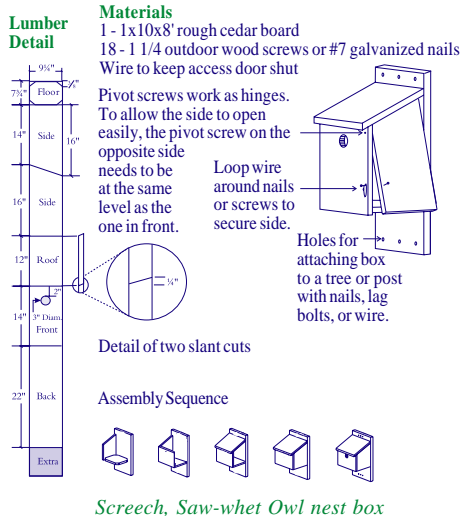
The **Great horned owl** (*Bubo virginianus*) is unmistakable for its large ear tufts or “horns.” It’s also called the “cat owl,” probably because those tufts look like cat ears, but maybe because it’s known to prey on house cats not kept in the house! This two-foot owl with a four-foot wingspan makes meals of small to medium-size mammals. Its hooting is heard more often than this nocturnal hunter is seen, but its large-headed, necklace silhouette, even at dusk, is hard to miss.

Year-round residents here, GHOs begin courtship in January, hooting at each other from atop large trees. By March they use old hawk or heron nests to lay two to three eggs for a month’s incubation. Young take three months to fledge and are fairly dependent on parents through the summer (when you may hear their begging cry for food.)

Like all owls, GHOs have feather layers so tight and dense that their flight is noiseless, advantageous to swooping in on prey. All owls have large eyes in flattened faces or facial “disks” to better hear and see prey, too; the GHO’s ear tufts may be useful extensions of that design.

If you have an owl roosting spot on your property, you may find “pellets” of indigestible bones, fur, and feathers that GHOs and other owls regurgitate from their prey.

The **Western screech owl** (*Otus kennicottii*) is much smaller at about ten-inches in length but also with small ear tufts. It is usually dark brown and has a unique series of whistles that “screech” through the night. A year-round resident, it nests in tree cavities, like old woodpecker holes, but will also use nestboxes (see design.) Screech owls favor areas near water and prey mostly on rodents, birds, and large insects.

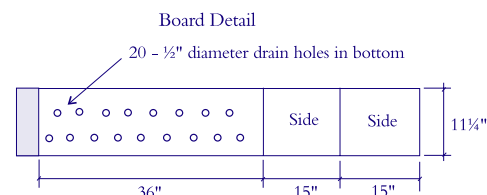
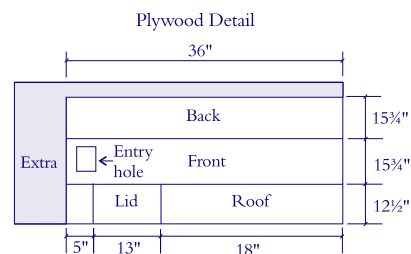
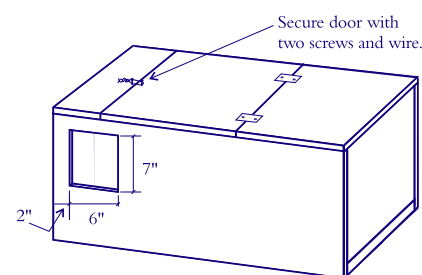


The **Northern saw-whet owl** (*Aegolius acadicus*) is smaller still, about the size of a blackbird, with dark brown plumage but no ear tufts. This seemingly tame or simply fearless little owl does migrate and may appear in some areas of Washington only in the winter. “Saw-whet” comes from its most common voice, an almost mechanical repetitive whistle that sounds like saw filing. Like the screech owl, it nests in tree cavities but will use a nestbox (see design). It prefers conifer forests and mostly hunts small mammals.

The **Northern pygmy owl** (*Glaucidium gnoma*) is our smallest owl at just seven inches long, including its long tail carried at a tilt. Because of its size, un-owl-like shape (besides tail, head is proportionately smaller), shrike-like flight and day-time hunting, the pygmy owl is often misidentified or overlooked as “just another brown bird in the brush.” Watch for it near your winter feeder where this fearless hunter will take on bigger birds or mammals. It has sharply streaked undersides, but most telling are the black patches on the back of its head that mimic “eyes” and may help intimidate prey. It can sometimes be attracted by imitating its staccato tooting.

The **Barn owl** (*Tyto alba*) is unique with its white heart-shaped face, dark eyes, golden-buff plumage with ghostly light underparts, and long legs that give it up to 20 inches in height. Despite its sinister appearance, and rasping scream that sounds like ripping canvas, this owl may be one of our best feathered friends

as a living mousetrap. Although it nests in open country natural cavities, it earned its name by ready use of barn rafters and other structures (including boxes – see design.) The Barn owl tends to be a year-round resident in milder parts of Washington, but may migrate out of harsher areas by fall. By March it lines its nest with fur pellets, lays 5-10 eggs, and in three weeks hatches young that fledge within two months (by mid-May).



Barn Owl nest box

1. Securely knot one end of a 5" long piece of nylon rope. Thread it through a small hole made in the top of one side so that the knot is inside the box. Then thread the rope through a small hole at the other side and knot the rope inside. The box can be hung inside a barn or other building about 20" above the ground. If placed in a tree, first wrap the rope around a sturdy limb before threading through the second hole.
2. Place box on a cross-beam with the front facing the inside of the building. Nail the box through the bottom to the cross-beam.
3. To permit direct access to the box from the outside, place the box against the inside of a wall after cutting a 6"x6" entrance in the barn wall at the level of the entry on the box.

Materials

1-4x8x5/8" exterior plywood, 1-1x12x6' rough cedar board, 2 galvanized hinges with galvanized screws, 5' of nylon mounting rope (optional), 35-1 5/8" outdoor wood screws or 35 #7 galvanized nails, two coats of dark latex exterior paint (if mounted outside).

New Spokane-area tour hosts needed

Since Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary program charter members Ron and Gerry Krueger retired from their annual "Open Yard - Bird Fair" event, WDFW is looking for new hosts for a Spokane area tour of backyards next spring.

That's right – last June's tours at the Kruegers' in northeast Spokane County, was the ninth and final promotional event for the program.

No one person may want to take on hosting such an event (it drew up to 2,000 a weekend), so WDFW is looking for several backyard wildlifers to form a tour of homes, similar to the King County event.

If you live in Spokane County, and you're interested in opening your backyard to help others see what they can do to attract wildlife to their own, contact WDFW urban wildlife biologist Howard Ferguson at 509-456-4420.

7th annual winter feeder survey coming up soon

Our veteran backyard winter bird feeding survey participants will receive their familiar forms in the mail by November so WDFW's 7th annual survey can get underway.

The surveying is simple: watch your feeders carefully for a couple of days every other week through the season, record numbers by species, and return data forms to us in the spring. If you'd like to join the effort let us know by October 10. Mail a postcard with your name and address to Winter Backyard Bird Survey, WDFW, 16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek, WA 98012.



Terns are making themselves at home in Tacoma

Most backyards, even if they're on Puget Sound, won't attract nesting Caspian terns.

But the old Asarco smelter site near the Tacoma Yacht Club in Ruston hosted about 1,000 of the big, fish-eating birds and some 200 chicks this summer. The terns are occupying a fenced off, large mound of dirt that overlooks Commencement Bay, providing both security from predators and a view of their food supply. This creates near-perfect nesting conditions for terns, says WDFW urban wildlife biologist Michelle Tirhi.

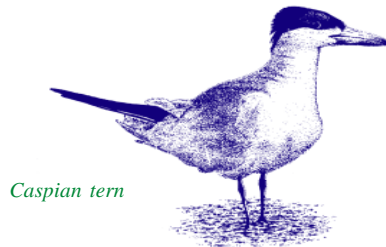
What's most amazing is that they successfully nested amidst so much urban

noise and disturbance she says. Loud, heavy machinery has been working within feet of the terns almost daily.

The terns probably won't be back next spring, however, because the mound of contaminated dirt will be bulldozed this fall to make way for a waterfront park. Asarco officials had planned to move the mound earlier this year in their clean-up and restoration, but they agreed to wait until the birds moved off this fall.

Biologists and environmentalists in the area are working on ways to keep the terns in Commencement Bay. This may prove difficult as terns eat a variety of fish, including some salmon species that have recently been added to the federal threatened species list.

Caspian terns are abundant and traditionally nest in Puget Sound, along the Columbia River, and in eastern Washington. At almost two feet in length, with long pointed wings, bright red beaks, and black caps, the terns are an exceptional addition to our urban environment!



Caspian tern

Learn how to keep those cats indoors

If you've heard our past advice about keeping cats indoors to protect wild birds, but you just don't know how to make the transition with your outdoor cat, there's new help available.

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has a new program called "Cats Indoors! The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats." They provide free information on how to make your outdoor cat happy indoors, what to do about your neighbors' cats in your yard, why cats themselves are safer indoors, why people think cats need to go outside (and the fallacy of that thinking!), and ways to educate your community about this problem.

The campaign also provides information about cat products that will help you either deal with your own cat or your neighbors' cats.

From a 1997 survey conducted for ABC, only 35% of cat owners keep their cats indoors all the time and 64% still think that putting bells on cats prevents them from killing birds and other wildlife.

You can get all the details from ABC at 1250 24th St., N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20037, phone 202-778-9666 or on their website www.abcbirds.org.



New funding for watchable wildlife may be possible from Congress this year

Two years ago we reported that the “Teaming With Wildlife” campaign, to create funding for watchable and other wildlife programs through federal excise taxes on outdoor recreational equipment, was gaining support. The bad news is that campaign died. But the good news is that another effort is now underway in Congress that has a good chance of passing this year.

Several bills have been introduced to fund a variety of conservation and recreation projects using revenue from offshore oil leases. The most prominent proposal is known as the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999 (CARA).

This legislation, **which does not create incentives for new drilling**, has three parts. Title I creates funding for coastal states and local governments for air and water quality, fish and wildlife, wetlands and other coastal resources (including salmon restoration).

Title II creates stable funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund for local, state, and federal lands, parks and recreation projects (including access areas and wildlife area management.)

Title III provides funding to state fish and wildlife agencies for wildlife conservation, recreation, and education programs to address the unmet needs of species that are not hunted nor fished.

If this legislation passes, Washington could see as much as \$35 million annually: \$18 million for Title I, \$6-7 million for Title II, and \$6-10 million for Title III.

WDFW’s draft investment plan for use of Title III dollars includes support for this newsletter as well as the following specific tasks:

- Develop statewide “Watchable Wildlife” program with network of wildlife viewing sites and guide



- Provide grants and assistance to community groups for fish and wildlife events, festivals, trails and other viewing opportunities
- Continue work with Dept. of Transportation to develop wildlife viewing and interpretation along highways
- “Keep common species common” by identifying and protecting key wildlife habitat through landowner partnerships
- Determine status and needs of songbirds, non-game mammals and fish, reptiles and amphibians where populations may be declining
- Conduct inventories and develop habitat management plans for non-hunted/fished species on WDFW and other public lands
- Support classroom programs like Project WILD, Salmon in the Classroom and Nature Mapping



- Focus educational outreach on use of WDFW lands as outdoor study sites, habitat demonstration projects and nature interpretation
- Provide grants and assistance to schools to develop outdoor learning labs and to fund continuing wildlife education

Whether you watch and protect wildlife just in your backyard, or wherever you go, these potential investments could enhance your life.

Check out the CARA website (www.teaming.com/) for more information, and watch Congress this fall for the rest of the story.

No bats in your box? Try these changes

Don’t be discouraged if you’ve put up a bat house and haven’t had occupants yet. You may just need to make a few of these changes that bat experts have recently discovered:

- Paint house black or stain dark
- Caulk house seams to make it tight to maximize heat and minimize temperature changes
- Build tall, large house, at least two feet tall, 14 inches wide
- Provide at least six-inch landing area extended below bottom entrance
- Make baffles out of rough lumber and separate by 3/4 to 1 inch
- Mount house at least 12 feet above ground on pole, with no obstructions for at least 20 feet
- Put two bat houses back to back and cover with tin roof
- Place box in a location that gets at least six hours of sun daily
- Place box within a quarter mile of at least a three-acre body of water

These ideas were from a recent Bat Conservation International (BCI) workshop. For more information, see www.batcon.com.

Also, for those participating in WDFW’s bat box survey, remember to send in your Data Collection Forms to BCI.



Season Tip

Fall is a great time to add shrubs and trees to your backyard landscape, and to plan ahead for the coming winter. Some plants’ berries remain attached long after they’re ripe and aren’t palatable to wildlife until they have frozen and thawed several times. These late winter wildlife plants include mountain ash, firethorn, saskatoon, junipers, crabapple, snowberry, sumacs, and hawthorn.

Create a hedgerow and watch your bird activity increase

By Brett Johnson

A great way to attract birds to a backyard, and to pack in the largest number of small trees and shrubs into a relatively small area, is to create a hedgerow.

Used in Europe for centuries to border farms, the hedgerow is the ancestor of both the modern shrub border and the suburban hedge. Like a shrub border, the hedgerow usually consists of a mixture of shrubs and small trees. Its primary purpose is not ornamental, however, but more closely resembles that of the modern hedge. It can be used as a windbreak, to create garden rooms or simply lend a sense of privacy, and even to help keep large animals out of the garden. Since the hedgerow is usually made up of a variety of plants, it is generally much better habitat for wildlife than a conventional hedge would be.

Traditional English hedgerows were composed of plants such as hedge maple, hazel and hawthorn. Luckily, each of these has a Washington native counterpart that will work just as well. In fact, many of our native trees and shrubs can be planted close together to make a thick, virtually impenetrable hedge. Many of these plants also produce seeds, berries, nuts, and nectar-rich flowers that provide food for birds and other critters at various times in the year.

Techniques historically used to create these living fences can be adapted to the garden today. Plants should be placed relatively close together for quick establishment. Fast-growing shrubs such as thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), salmon-

berry (*R. spectabilis*) and blackcap raspberry (*R. leucodermis*), among others, can be planted among slower growing shrubs and trees, and cut back as the slower growing shrubs mature.

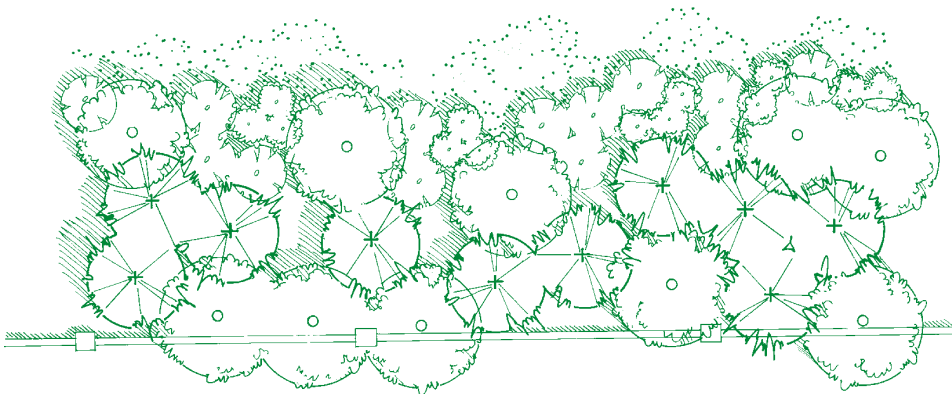
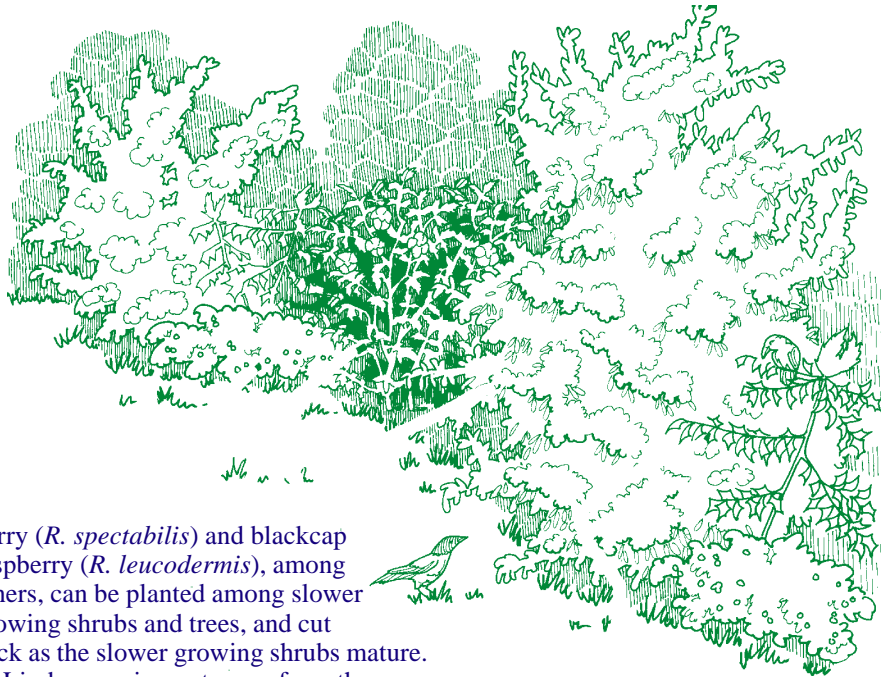
Limbs growing out away from the hedge can simply be woven back into the hedge, creating a thick tangle of interwoven branches. This is preferable to the shearing done to most hedges, since shearing produces an unnaturally dense twiggy growth birds often find difficult to penetrate. In contrast, a woven hedgerow often has spaces between the branches, allowing birds to fly in and out. The woven branches are also much more difficult for larger animals to push through.

Strong-wooded small trees such as maples give strength to a hedgerow. Washington state has two small native maples (growing to 25 feet or more) that would work well: Vine maple (*Acer circinatum*) will be happier in shady,

moist woodland settings, while Douglas' maple (*A. glabrum douglasii*) prefers drier, sunnier sites. For a smaller hedgerow, to be kept around 10 feet, oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*) would be preferable to maples. The flexible but tough stems will help hold the hedgerow together. Able to adapt to most soils and light regimes, oceanspray's creamy spikes of flowers in July dry on the bush to create winter hiding spots for small invertebrates such as spiders and insects, which in turn provide winter food for birds.

Long branched shrubs such as beaked hazel (*Corylus cornuta*), to 25 feet in sun or shade, may also be used to knit the hedgerow together. The arching branches are perfect for weaving back into the hedge. For a smaller hedge, snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) will weave itself through other shrubs, but may occasionally need to be thinned. Vines such as orange honeysuckle (*Lonicera ciliosa*), trailing blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) and Western clematis (*Clematis ligusticifolia*) serve the same purpose.

When large animals or people threaten to compromise a hedge, thorny shrubs are often used to keep out unwanted guests. Blackhaw (*Crataegus suksdorfii*), with its one-inch spines, is an obvious choice for



(continued on page 6)

Hedgerows

(continued from page 5)

bright shade or sun. For shadier areas, many gooseberries, such as the black gooseberry (*Ribes divaricatum*), would work on a smaller scale. Roses such as the baldhip (*Rosa gymnocarpa*) or nootka rose (*R. nootkana*) might also work, though the latter also prefers more sun. Other good choices can be found in the bramble family. Blackcap raspberry will make a hedge of its own given the chance, and the nasty little prickles of the trailing blackberry can be woven through the other shrubs for an effect all out of proportion to the size of the prickles.

The suburban hedge is generally made from a single species of evergreen shrub, but a hedgerow traditionally includes a mixture of evergreen and deciduous plants. Since the majority of our native evergreen shrubs, such as Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa*) and sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), are all fairly low-growing, they can knit the base of the hedgerow

together. The addition of taller evergreens such as tall Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) in shade or chinquapin (*Castanopsis chrysophylla*) and California wax myrtle (*Myrica californica*) in sun will provide winter cover for birds, and may help deter pesky deer from trying to jump over the hedgerow.

Since it generally will be at least three feet wide and, unless carefully pruned, will generally reach 10 feet or more, a hedgerow may not be a good idea for a small garden. But for those with the room, a hedgerow can serve a multitude of purposes, including creation of excellent bird habitat. For information on native plants for your specific area, contact your local chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society

** Brett Johnson is the owner of Green Man Gardens and co-author of several short books on gardening for wildlife in Western Washington published by Wild Words (<http://www.wildwords.com>).*

Backyard sanctuary directory being compiled

In response to requests by certified sanctuary members for information on the whereabouts of nearby certified sanctuaries, we are again asking members interested in sharing information with other members to contact us.

Please send us your street address, phone number/email address, and a brief description of your property and how you manage it for wildlife.



It bears repeating: Clean up your act!

You've heard it here before, (unless you're a newcomer to the program) and you'll hear it again and again: when it comes to backyard bird feeding, "clean up your act!"

Clean feeders and bird baths can help control some diseases of wild birds, although there are others that spread no matter how clean you are.

The "unstoppables" are those that spread simply by lots of birds coming into close contact with each other (like avian pox); the only thing you can do is provide lots of different feeders to try to spread the birds out.

But there are other diseases that you can prevent by keeping feeders clean and dry. These are caused mostly by mold, which grows when seed gets wet or even moist. Moldy seed can cause aspergillosis, a fungal disease that can be fatal to birds.

The first thing you can do is wash all feeders with a very mild bleach solution and dry them thoroughly. Feeders should be checked for mold and cleaned periodically throughout the season. If you feed birds year-round it's especially important

since the combination of warm weather and moisture can spoil seed easily.

It's best to let birds eat all the seeds in a feeder to avoid adding fresh seed on top of old and possibly moldy seed. If spilled seed starts piling up on the ground long enough to grow mold or bacteria, clean it up. Never use seed that gets damp, or allow it to lie around where birds can get into it.

Use feeders that are covered or sheltered from rain and snow, and types that don't allow birds to stand or poop in the seed. To conserve seed and limit the number of birds at a tube feeder, remove some or all of the perches or cover some of the feeding ports with heavy-duty tape.

Put suet out only when it's cold. Birds can get "rancid fat disease" from suet that goes bad in warm weather.

Buy smaller amounts of seed more often to keep it fresh and to be able to store it in airtight containers or refrigerate or freeze it. Test seed for freshness by trying to sprout a few (just like you would garden seeds); if they grow, they're at least nutritionally sound for birds.

This information will be compiled into a state-wide directory which members can obtain by sending us a request and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Those added to the directory will automatically be sent a directory. Those who responded to this request in the Fall 1996 edition of Crossing Paths also will be sent a directory and need not respond unless an update is required.

Send information and requests to:

Sanctuary Program
16018 Mill Creek Blvd.
Mill Creek, WA 98012

Information can also be emailed to:
linkrel@dfw.wa.gov



Learn to identify birds at a glance

Learning to identify birds for the first time can often be overwhelming.

How do veteran birders tell what bird is which so fast? Well, sometimes they just identify a **category** of bird quickly, then figure out the precise species.

It's not rocket science. They just watch for these key clues:

- **Size and shape** of body, bill, wings and tail; these visual clues will help you categorize a bird as perching or "passerine" (from the order of Passeriformes), non- passerine or land, swimmers, aerialists, fowl-like, long-legged waders, short-legged or smaller waders, or birds of prey. (See silhouette chart.)
- **Behavior and habitat** – flying in flocks, soaring or flapping wings, diving under water, hopping up or down a tree, moving on the ground, moving along edge of water, etc.
- **Feeding habits** – eating seeds, catching insects, pulling worms out of the ground, fishing, attacking other birds or small mammals, etc.
- **Individual marks** – colors of head, throat, belly, tail, and other body parts, wing bars or shoulder epaulets, crown shape, eye rings or streaks, plain or streaked breast, etc.

Of course there's no substitute for a good field guide to help you hone in on the right species. There are several excellent ones available in book stores and libraries. Just remember that you first need to categorize the bird some way to narrow your search before flipping through the pictures in a book.

Check out range maps in your field guide, too. Although nothing's impossible, (considering how migratory birds can get blown off course), a range map may show you that one species is much more probable than another.

Keep in mind the time of year when you're trying to identify birds, too. Fall and spring are particularly challenging, even for veteran birders, because so many different migratory species can be moving through your area that you won't see in summer or winter. Fall birding is further complicated by the fact that bird families now include juveniles that don't always have the same plumage as adults.

Here are eight visual categories that can help you quickly identify a bird.



Passerine (perching) birds (larks, crows, jays, chickadees, wrens, warblers, finches, sparrows, etc.)



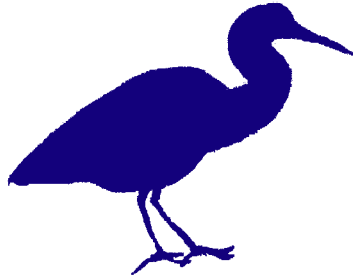
Nonpasserine land birds (pigeons doves, cuckoos, woodpeckers, kingfishers, etc.)



Swimmers (ducks, geese, loons, etc.)



Aerialists (seagulls, terns, etc.)



Long-legged waders (herons, cranes, etc.)



Fowl-like birds (turkey, grouse, quails, etc.)



Smaller waders (sandpipers, plovers, etc.)



Birds of prey (hawks, eagles, vultures, owls, etc.)

The last sounds of summer may be hummers

Hummingbirds that were at your sugar-water feeders or nectar-producing plants all summer brought colorful sights and sounds to your backyard.

Sights, surely, but sounds??

Oh yes, conveys "Tweeters" list service subscriber Mike Patterson. Western hummingbirds make three kinds of sounds:

1) Wing trills – these are deliberately produced (as opposed to being an artifact of really fast wings). Broad-tailed hummingbirds make a diagnostic 6000Hz whine from their specially tapered tenth primary feather, for example.

2) Tail buzz – these are produced in tail feather fanning displays, either in

courtship or territorial disputes. The sound associated with Rufous hummingbird displays is presumed to be produced by the tail and the notch in a certain tail feather.

3) True vocalizations – most hummers make various chip and twitter notes. Anna's hummingbird has a full song.



Crossing Paths

WITH WILDLIFE IN WASHINGTON TOWNS AND CITIES

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program

Westside: 16018 Mill Creek Blvd.,
Mill Creek, Wa. 98012 / 425-775-1311
Eastside: N. 8702 Division St.,
Spokane, Wa. 99218 / 509-456-4082

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will provide equal opportunities to all potential and existing employees without regard to race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, or Vietnam Era Veteran's status.

The department receives Federal Aid for fish and wildlife restoration.

The department is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin or handicap. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any department program, activity, or facility, or if you want further information about Title VI or Section 504, write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, or Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia WA 98501-1091.

Newsletter will be "on-line" this fall

If you're an Internet user, you'll soon be able to view this "Crossing Paths" newsletter "on-line." Just visit the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife website (www.wa.gov/wdfw) and look under "Outdoor Recreation" or "Wildlife Science" or "Education," all which include "Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program," under which you'll find the newsletter. We should have it up and running by the end of September. We plan to archive past editions, too, so you'll have an electronic reference on backyard information.

If you'd like to receive future editions of this newsletter via e-mail, send us your e-mail address via the on-line form that follows the website version of the newsletter. If you're satisfied with either the website or e-mailed version of this newsletter, and want to discontinue receiving the paper copy in the mail, please let us know so that we can save postage.

Tell Your Friends:

◆ ◆ ◆ **Personalized Plates Help Wildlife** ◆ ◆ ◆

The Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary program, along with other non-game functions of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), is funded by the sale of Washington state personalized motor vehicle license plates. These distinctive plates — in your choice of unclaimed word(s) up to seven letters — cost an extra \$46 for the first year and an extra \$30 for each subsequent year. You can pick up an application form at any state licensing or WDFW office, or by contacting the Department of Licensing at P.O. Box 9042, Olympia, WA 98507, 360-902-3770 (telephone menu option #5).

